

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION REPORT

DATE: October 17, 1989

Region II  
Air and Hazardous Substances Staff  
Caribbean Field Office  
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and  
Response and Prevention Branch  
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POLREP NO.: three (3)  
INCIDENT/SITE NO.:  
POLLUTANT: Possible PCBs, pesticides, asbestos and other  
hazardous materials  
CLASSIFICATION: Unknown  
SOURCE: Hurricane-caused spills  
LOCATION: St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands  
AMOUNT: Unknown at this time  
AFFECTED MEDIUM: Soil (potential), air (potential), water  
(potential).

1. SITUATION:

Refer to POLREP ONE (1)

2. ACTION TAKEN:

October 17, 1989

A. Four TAT members were present in St. Croix.

B. EPA representatives, including the regional and deputy administrators, and TAT attended the FEMA daily meeting.

C. Corps of Engineers (COE) still concerned with ultimate disposal of hurricane debris stored at three temporary dump sites. They recommend that the burnables be disposed of by burning in aerated open pits. COE estimates that about 75% of the approximately 2,000,000 cu. yd. of debris is burnable. Non-burnables, mostly scrap metal, can be recycled. COE informed EPA that the Anguilla landfill does not have the capacity to hold this debris and that the DPNR is opposed to burning.

D. EPA met with DPNR personnel to address the issues of solid and hazardous material disposal, drinking water contamination, sewage control and the WAPA oil spill. Francine Lang (DPNR) requested EPA assistance with the following issues: a) installation of additional landfill space to supplement Anguilla, b) permanent solid waste disposal and, c) PCB and asbestos investigation and remediation.

E. DPNR also expressed concern with Hess Oil's remediation of oil contaminated cisterns and the need for random monitoring to verify the water quality.

F. As directed by EPA, TAT organized two teams to perform a fact-finding inspection. Group 1 conducted a hazardous materials assessment of the Hess Oil Virgin Islands Corporation (HOVIC) refinery. Two major hurricane-related incidents occurred. These incidents involve the release of asbestos-containing material (ACM) and No.6 oil.

1. Large but unknown quantities of asbestos-containing insulation material was blown off from the distillation units. Approximately 90% of distillation towers lost some or all insulation. ACM disposed on-site in a DPNR-approved landfill. HOVIC informed that approximately 70% of the asbestos contaminated area has been cleaned. A written removal notification to EPA is being processed by HOVIC. HOVIC has notified EPA Region 2 verbally.

2. Large amounts of No.6 oil were spilled in the harbor, the tank fields and outside of the facility. This oil was lifted off from four 600,000 bbl tanks by tornadoes. The harbor has been cleaned, oil in the tankfields has been pumped into other tanks and oil-laden soil is being disposed within the facility in an EPA-approved land farm.

3. Oil lifted out of the facility by tornadoes may have contaminated up to 500 cisterns in Estate Strawberry and Ginger Thomas located north of HOVIC. So far, HOVIC has received 108 complaints and has cleaned 25 cisterns. HOVIC is sampling and analyzing water from the cisterns of the complainants. Total organic carbon tests are used for screening and petroleum

hydrocarbons tests are used for confirmation of oil contamination.

G. Group 2 performed a survey of the WAPA facility for potential-PCB-contamination. The initial inspection was assisted by Ms. Carolyn Ehle-Yewett (DPNR). TAT obtained photodocumentation of the transformer storage area and the oil spill clean-up efforts. TAT identified 12 PCB transformers. Labels on some of the transformers indicated potential PCB contamination in the range of 50-400 ppm. The PCB transformers are stored above a diked concrete slab. The storage pad was significantly flooded and had a collapsed roof. No evidence of leakage from the transformers was observed.

### 3. MEASURES WHICH COULD AVOID RELEASES OF SIMILAR NATURE:

Unknown at this time.

### 4. FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. TAT scheduled a meeting with Mr Greg Willocks of WAPA to obtain maps showing the location of damaged transformers.

B. TAT will screen the WAPA facility and power distribution system for PCB contamination.

C. TAT will survey the HOVIC asbestos and oil clean up operations.

D. TAT will begin the Vialco survey after the HOVIC assessment is completed.

E. EPA will continue to review all the environmental concerns brought by federal or territorial agencies.

F. EPA will provide FEMA with a report of its activities.

FURTHER POLREPS FORTHCOMING: X . FINAL POLREP: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMITTED BY: Carlos O'Neill . DATE RELEASED: 10-19-89 .

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